

METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR MONITORING AND COMMUNICATING WITH AN IMPLANTED MEDICAL DEVICE

Abstract of the Disclosure

5 A method and apparatus for communicating with and monitoring the operation
of a device implanted within a patient. A transceiver capable of being implanted within
a patient provides a communication interface between an implanted medical device and
a monitor external to the patient's body. The external monitor can communicate with a
remote monitoring center over a communication network. The external monitor also
provides control signals to the implanted device via the transceiver unit. The
10 transceiver apparatus is capable of two-way communication between the implanted
device and the external monitor. The transceiver apparatus is also capable of detecting
actions performed by the implanted device and physiological signals directly from the
patient's body. Thus, the transceiver apparatus provides a means for determining
whether an implanted medical device is operating properly. The transceiver apparatus
15 provides a way to remotely reprogram one or more implanted medical devices.

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